

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00068 191522Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 /081 W

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R 191035Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5417

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 68

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, RH

SUBJ: MOZAMBICAN OPPOSITION LEADER CLAIMS LAZARO KAVANDAME,
JOANA SIMIAO, URIAH SIMANGO STILL IN PRISON CAMP

1. ANTONIO BASILIO CALISTO MACALUBE, 76 YEAR OLD FORMER
MOZAMBICAN LIBERATION ACTIVIST AND CURRENT OPPONENT OF
FRELIMO, HAS VISITED EMBASSY TWICE IN LAST WEEK AFTER BEING
BROUGHT TO MAPUTO BY GPRM FROM A MOZAMBICAN "RE-EDUCATION"
CAMP. MACALUBE HAD BEEN HELD IN NTELELA CAMP NEAR
LICHINGA (EX-VILA CABRAL) (13 18 5, 35 14E) IN NIASSA PROVINCE
FOR ABOUT A YEAR, AFTER BEING KEPT AT THE NACHINGWEA CAMP
IN SOUTHERN TANZANIA FOR THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS. MACALUBE
WAS TAKEN FROM NTELELA NOVEMBER 28, 1976, TO LICHINGA FOR
MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND WAS FLOWN TO MAPUTO IN LATE DECEMBER.

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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00068 191522Z

2. WHILE AT NTELELA, MACALUBE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN A "CELL
MATE" OF LAZARO KAVANDAME, A FORMER LEADER OF RELIMO AND OLD
POLITICAL FOE OF FRELIMO PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL. MACALUBE
SAID KAVANDAME WAS STILL IN THE CAMP WHEN MACALUBE LEFT, AND
DID NOT ESCAPE TO LEAD ANTI-FRELIMO DISSIDENTS ON RAIDS IN
NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE, AS HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY RUMORED.
MACALUBE ALSO CLAIMED THAT FORMER GUMO AND COREMO LEADER

JOANA SIMIAO IS HELD AT THE CAMP. ALTHOUGH SHE HAS BEEN ILL, SHE DID NOT DIE AS WAS REPORTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS. URIASH SIMANGO, WHOM MACALUBE TERMED "THE LEGAL PRESIDENT" OF FRELIMO, IS ALSO HELD AT THE CAMP.

3. MACALUBE SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT JOANA SIMIAO MAY NOW BE IN MAPUTO, OR MIGHT BE BROUGHT DOWN FROM THE CAMP SHORTLY. HE HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO FIND OUT DEFINITELY, BUT COULD NOT CONFIRM HER PRESENCE IN MAPUTO.

4. ON FIRST VISIT JANUARY 13, MACALUBE SAID HE WAS RENEWING CONTACTS AT THE EMBASSY, WHERE HE HAD SEVERAL FRIENDS AMONG LOCAL EMPLOYEES. HE ALSO ASKED ABOUT SEVERAL FSO'S WHO HAD SERVED HERE. ON FIRST VISIT, EMBOFF AND LOCALS COULD NOT DRAW HIM OUT ON HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OR HIS IMPRESSIONS, BUT ON THE SECOND VISIT JANUARY 18, MACALUBE WAS MUCH MORE WILLING TO CONVERSE. HE CLAIMED THAT GPRM MAINTAINS FIVE "RE-EDUCATION CAMPS," AND SOME HAVE AS MANY AS 10,000 PRISONERS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN. HE STATED THAT HE AND OTHER "POLITICIANS" LISTED PARA 2 RECEIVED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN THE CAMP, INCLUDING HAVING THEIR LAUNDRY DONE FOR THEM (TO THE ENVY OF THE GUARDS WHO MUST DO THEIR OWN). MACALUBE ALSO STATED THAT PRESIDENT MACHEL HAD DIRECT CONTROL OVER THE "POLITICIANS" WHO WERE HELD PRISONER AND THAT CAMP AUTHORITIES WERE INSTRUCTED TO OBEY ONLY DIRECT ORDERS FROM MACHEL CONCERNING THEM.

5. TALKING ABOUT CURRENT FRELIMO PERSONALITIES MACALUBE CHARACTERIZED GPRM MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JOAQUIM CHISSANO
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PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00068 191522Z

AS A "MODERATE, BUT NOT EXCEPTIONALLY INTELLIGENT." INTERIOR MINISTER ARMANDO GUEBUZA "LIKES POWER." INTERIOR VICE MINISTER DANIEL MBANZE IS ANOTHER "MODERATE," BUT MUST OPERATE IN THE SHADOW OF HIS MORE POWERFUL MINISTER. MACALUBE SAID FRELIMO IS NOT A "PARTY," BUT A "FRONT." THE THIRD PARTY CONGRESS OF FRELIMO, SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 3-7 IS AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE A POLITICAL PARTY OUT OF FRELIMO, BUT "IT WILL FAIL." HE SAID THAT THE "THESES" BEING PUBLISHED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE CONGRESS ARE "TRASH," AND CLAIMED THEY WERE WRITTEN BY GPRM MINISTER OF INFORMATION JORGE REBELO AND PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT SERGIO VIEIRA. MACALUBE DISMISSED DEFENSE MINISTER CHIPANDE WITH A WAVE OF HIS HAND, AND CLAIMED THAT DEEP DISSATISFACTION EXISTS AMONG ARMY OFFICERS. MACALUBE SAID HE WOULD ELUCIDATE HIS DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT INTERNAL SITUATION WITHIN FRELIMO IN ANOTHER CALL AT EMBASSY.

6. ON LOCAL DISCONTENT AND OPPOSITION TO FRELIMO, MACALUBE CLAIMED FUMO "AGENTS" ARE ALREADY IN THE COUNTRY, AND LAUGHED AT GPRM DECISION TO TIGHTLY RESTRICT ENTRY INTO COUNTRY

BEFORE AND AFTER THE THIRD CONGRESS. HE CHARACTERIZED IT AS "CLOSING THE BARN DOOR AFTER THE HORSE HAS GONE." MAPUTO RESIDENTS ARE "VERY UNHAPPY," HE SAID, AND DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THEIR GOVERNMENT IS DOING. HE CLAIMED THAT SUPPORT FOR FRELIMO IS FADING RAPIDLY AMONG THE GENERAL POPULATION AND WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES, AND THAT SUPPORT FOR DOMINGOS AROUCA'S FUMO IS GROWING.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MACALUBE'S STATEMENTS THAT KAVANDAME, SIMIAO AND SIMANGO ARE PROBABLY ACCURATE. HIS IMPRESSIONS OF PRESENT GPRM LEADERS, WHILE NOT PARTICULARLY ILLUMINATING, ARE INTERESTING. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY IS INTRIGUED WITH HIS STATEMENTS ALLEGING THAT THINGS ARE NOT WELL IN THE ARMED FORCES AND STATEMENTS THAT SUPPORT FOR FRELIMO IS FADING AND SUPPORT FOR OPPOSITION GROUPS IS RISING, WE HAVE NO PROOF TO CORROBORATE THIS. THERE GOOD POSSIBILITY THESE ALLEGATIONS REFLECT MACALUBE'S OWN PREJUDICES. EMBOFF'S
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PAGE 04 MAPUTO 00068 191522Z

OVERALL IMPRESSION IS THAT MACALUBE KNOWS MUCH MORE THAN HE RELATED IN THESE TWO MEETINGS, BUT PREFERS NOT TO DISCUSS IT UNTIL HE HAS SPENT MORE TIME IN MAPUTO AND UPDATES HIS OWN KNOWLEDGE.

8. FOR DAR ES SALAAM: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE POLITICAL OFFICER MACDOUGALL'S COMMENTS ON MACALUBE.
CARSON

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